

A Brief Journey Through Irish History

A Euramerican National Assembly Presentation



Coverage

- We could discuss culture, arts, technologies, social structures, law, family structures, Politics, Leadership
- This will cover a broad timeline expanse as an overview
- We can cover more focused subjects in the future
- This is also a new area for me, so possibly some errors



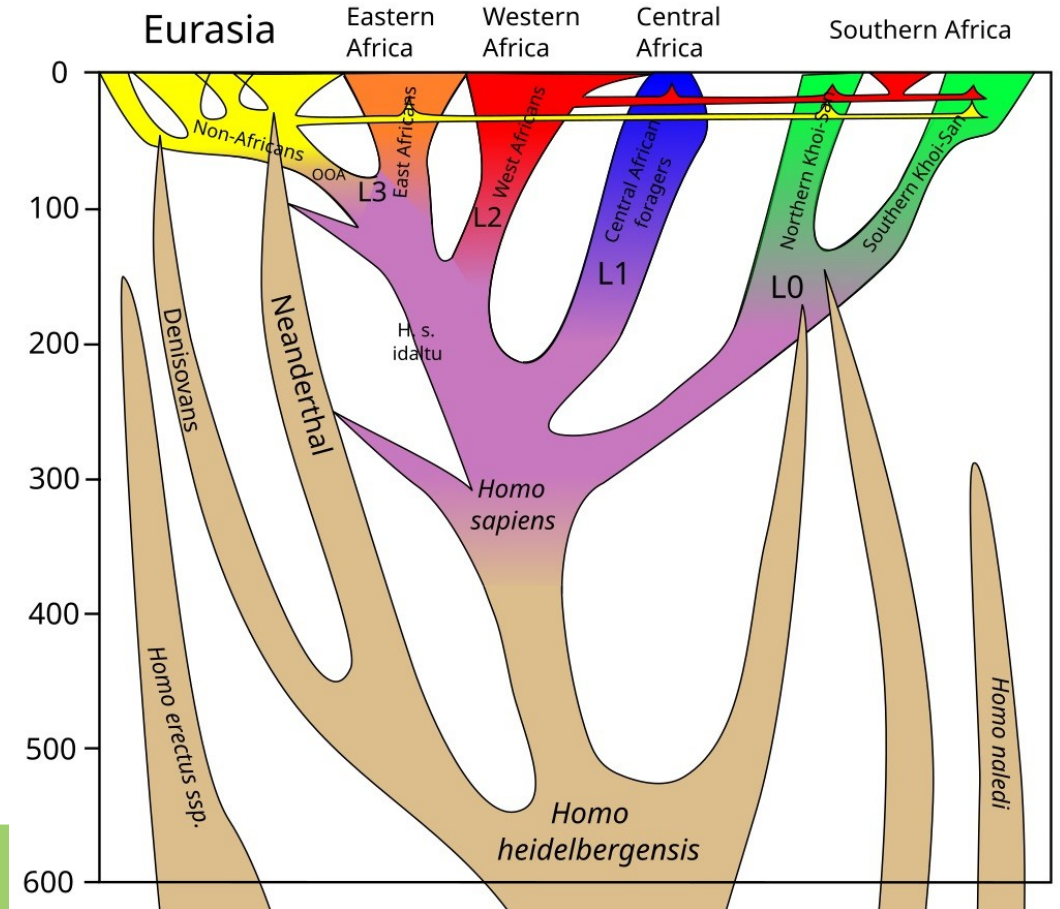
Agenda

- Prehistoric Ireland
- Bronze and Iron Age Ireland
- Pre Christian Era
- Early Christian Era
- Viking Invasions and Settlements
- Norman Invasion
- Gaelic Resurgence and English Control
- 17th Century – Wars and Colonization
- 18th & 19th Century – Rebellion and Famine
- 20th Century Independence and Division



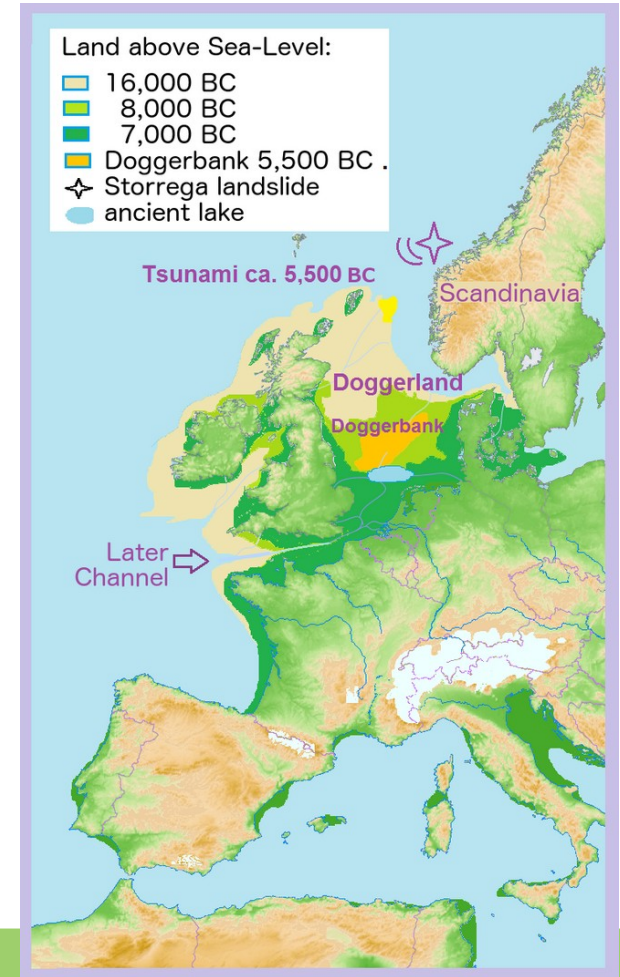
Prehistoric Ireland

- Over this long period of time, there have been several major different human species:
- Heidelbergensis 500K Yrs
- Neanderthal 500K to 30K Yrs
- Modern Humans (30K Yrs – present)



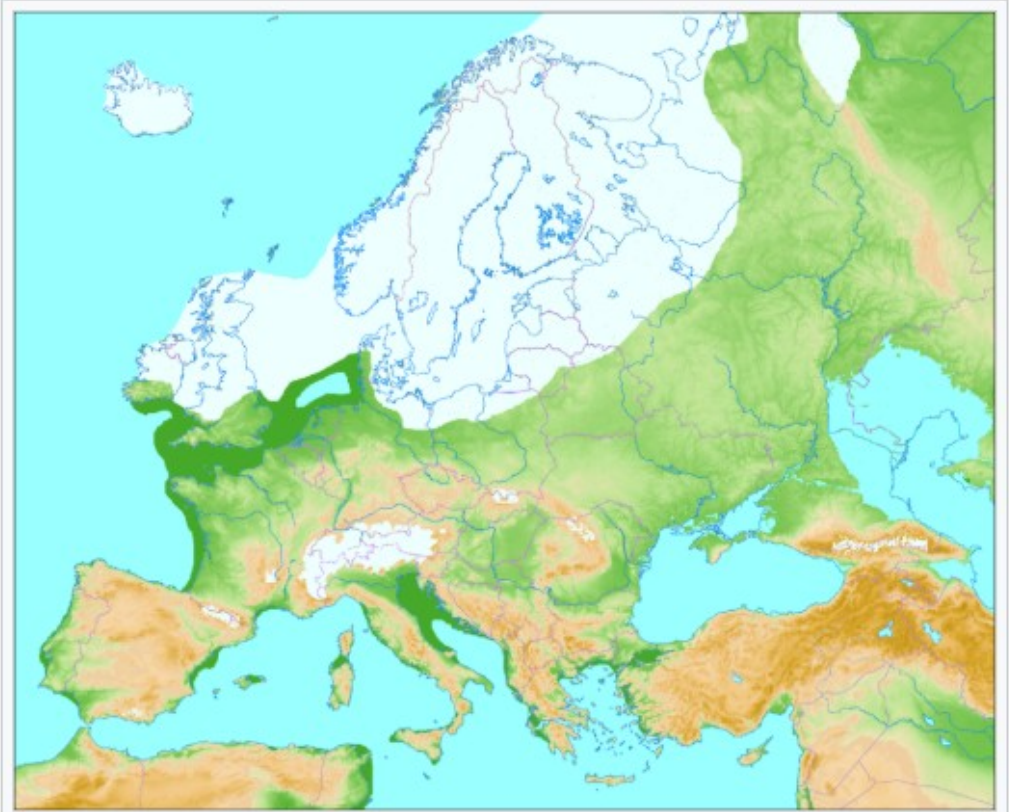
Prehistoric Ireland

- Ireland hasn't always been an Island
- During Ice Ages, it was part of a peninsula connected to the European Continent



Prehistoric Ireland

- 70,000 BC to 20,000 BC Ice Age
- Ice Caps covered much of Ireland

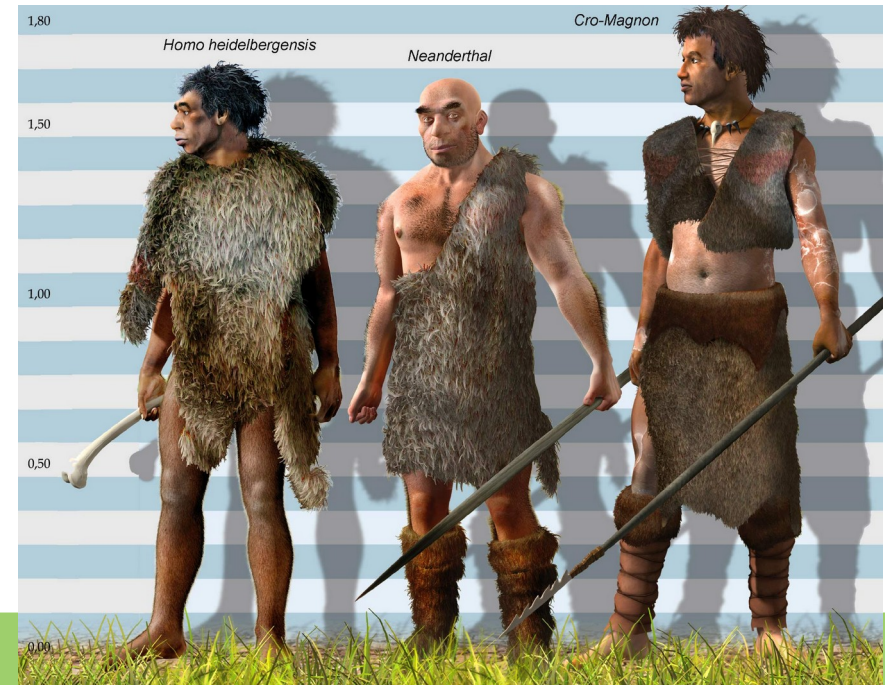


Map of Europe during the Würm glaciation 70–20,000 years ago

Prehistoric Ireland

500,000 BC

- Possibly Homo Heidelbergensis
- Homo Heidelbergensis identified in British Isles area going back 500,000 years



Prehistoric Ireland

Neanderthals

400,000 Yrs BP – 40,000 Yrs BP



Prehistoric Ireland

Modern Humans (Mesolithic) Up to 4000 BC

- Evidence goes back 33,000 years in Ireland
- Identified in 1972 at Castlepook Cave in Cork
- Hunter Gatherers up until 4000 BC
- Possibly ~ 10,000 individuals



Prehistoric Ireland

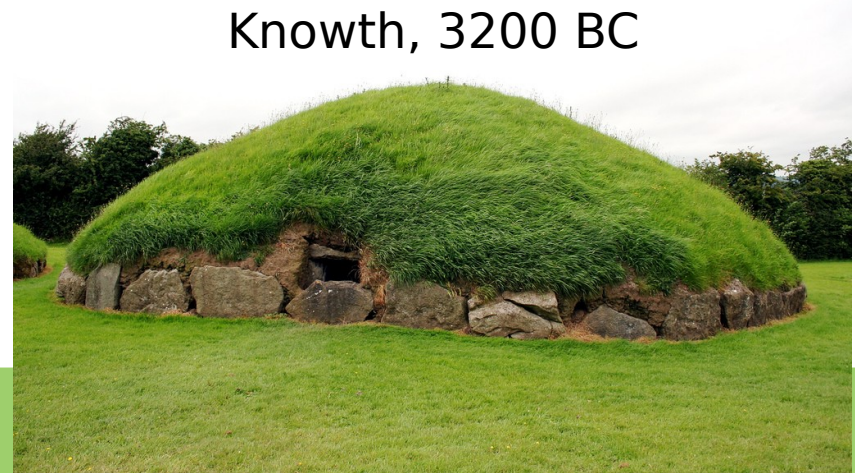
Modern Humans (Neolithic 4000 BC to 2500 BC)

- Early Farmers evidence about 4350 BC at Ferriter's Cove
- Sudden evidence of Megalithic Tombs
- Skara Brae (Orkney Islands about 3180 BC similar culture)
- Languages may have been proto-Indo European based

Creevykeel Court, 3500 BC



Knowth, 3200 BC



Prehistoric Ireland

Modern Humans (Neolithic 4000 BC to 2500 BC)

- Related to European Hunter-Gatherers and **Farmer** populations
- Similar to Spain and Sardinia European population
- This is similar to the rest of the European population base at this time
- This is an underlying genetic strata in the modern Irish population
- Celtic Languages have not arrived yet
- Megalithic Passage Tombs



Copper Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age Ireland (2500 BC – 400 AD)



Bronze Age Ireland

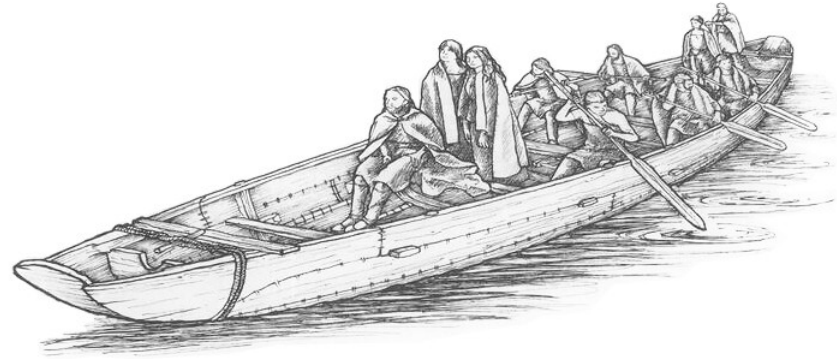
- Irish Population numbers about 100,000 – 200,000 (smaller than population of Tucson) in area of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties ~ 6.5 people per square mile
- Copper Age from 2500 BC to 2000 BC (Farming and Animal Husbandry introduced)
- Bronze Age from 2000 BC to 500 BC
- Iron Age from 500 BC to 400 AD

Gold Lunula, ~2400 BC



Bronze Age Ireland

- Bell Beaker people arrive near 2500 BC
- Early Farmers
- Bring Copper and eventually Bronze Metallurgy (2000 BC)
- Bring Steppe-related ancestry
- Replacement of ~90 % of the gene pool
- Still not Celtic languages (maybe possibly an early Q-Celtic): proto-Indo-European languages probable

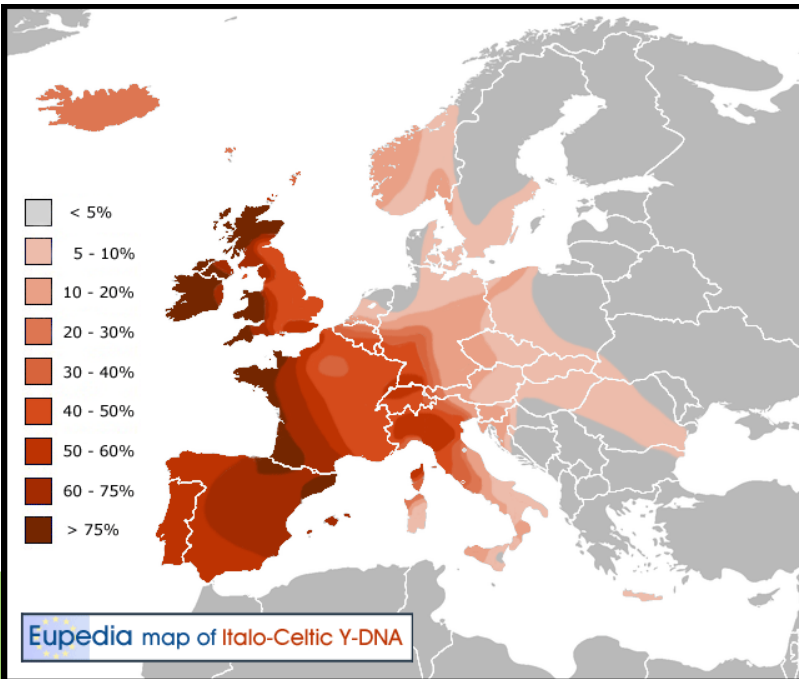


Bronze Age Ireland

Celts were widely spread across Europe

Linguistic Group

But Genetically Linked too



Bronze Age Ireland

- 700 BC: Arrival of the Celts (might be earlier, but not in large numbers)
- Old Irish is Q-Celtic (Goidelic/Gaelic replaced IE kw- with p-)
- Unknown if it was military conquest or merely population migrations and brought their language
- New art styles become evident (La-Tene culture)
- Brought Brehon Laws (early legal system)
- Became dominant due to advances in social systems, military and technology
- Hill Forts in large numbers

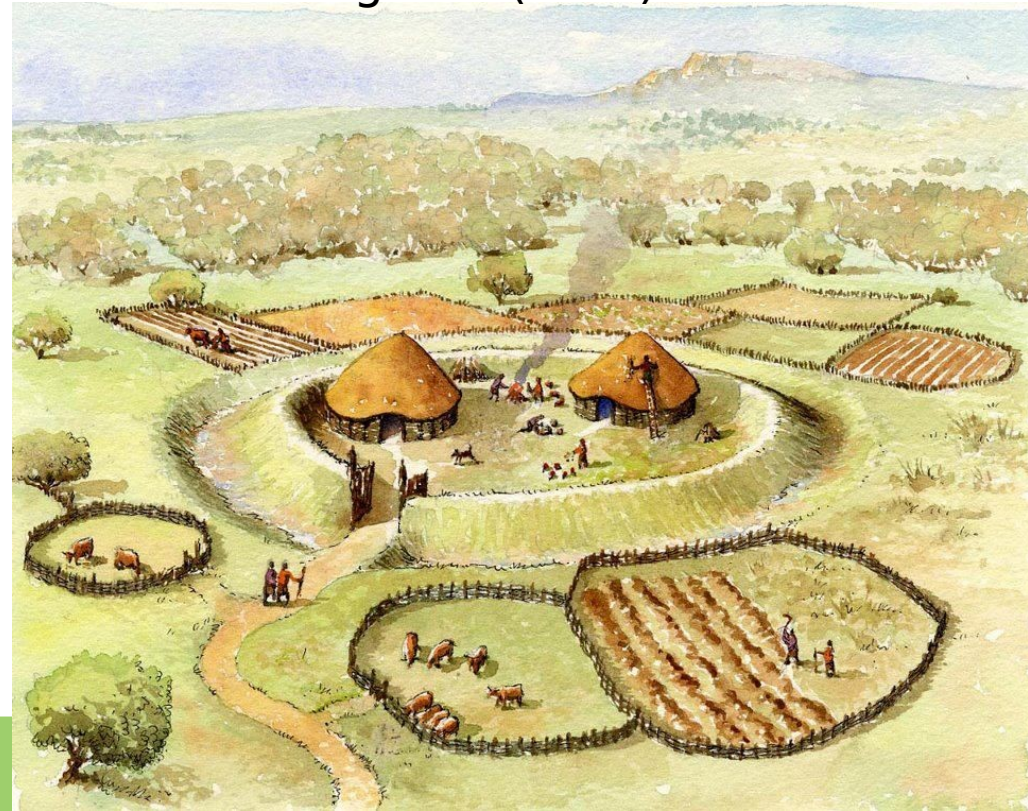


Iron Age Ireland

Iron Age (500 BC to 400 AD)

- Ring Forts common
- 60,000 spread across Island
- Small ones were homesteads, farms
- Farming
- Agricultural Cattle

Small Ring Fort (Rath) around a farm



Iron Age Ireland

Iron Age (500 BC to 400 AD)

- Iron Smelting
- Larger Social Systems

Rathcroghan Mound – late Iron Age



Celtic characters at the reconstruction of the Iron age dwelling at the Navan centre and fort near Armagh in Northern Ireland.



Pre Christian Era (up to 400 AD)



Pre-Christian Era

Iron Age Celts Characterized by

- Iron Smelting and Tools
- Highly skilled and advanced in Iron Work and Metallurgy
- Ringforts
- Hillforts
- High Skill Artistic Work
- Chieftain based Society
- Warrior Class
- Craftsmen and Artisans
- Druids ran religious practices
- Agriculture and Livestock Economy
- Wide Trade networks



Pre-Christian Era



Christian Era (from 400 AD)



Christian Era

Christianity arrives in Ireland during 400's (possibly a little earlier)

- Christianity already there in early 400's
- In 431 AD, Pope Celestine 1st ordains Palladius to Ireland as first Bishop
- Saint Patrick arrives in 432 AD
- Missionaries sent to Scotland, Wales, England, France in 500's and 600's.
- 563 AD Columba sailed to Scotland to preach there
- By 700's, Ireland is predominantly Christian



Christian Era

- Tuath – basic political and jurisdictional regions, also “people”
- Ireland was Clan Based
- Family Ownership of Land
- Brehon Law – Civil Code. Compensation codes. No Criminal code. Like Weregild, different classes



Viking Invasions and Settlements



Vikings in Ireland

700's timeframe – Ireland as Vikings Arrive

- Ireland homogeneously Gaelic
- Rural communities
- Monastery towns central in society
- No large towns or cities
- Vikings gave Ireland its name: Eire-Land



Vikings in Ireland

- 795 AD – First recorded Viking Raid in Ireland
- Rathlin Island
- Attacked Monasteries
- Took slaves
- Norse settlements established
 - Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Limerick



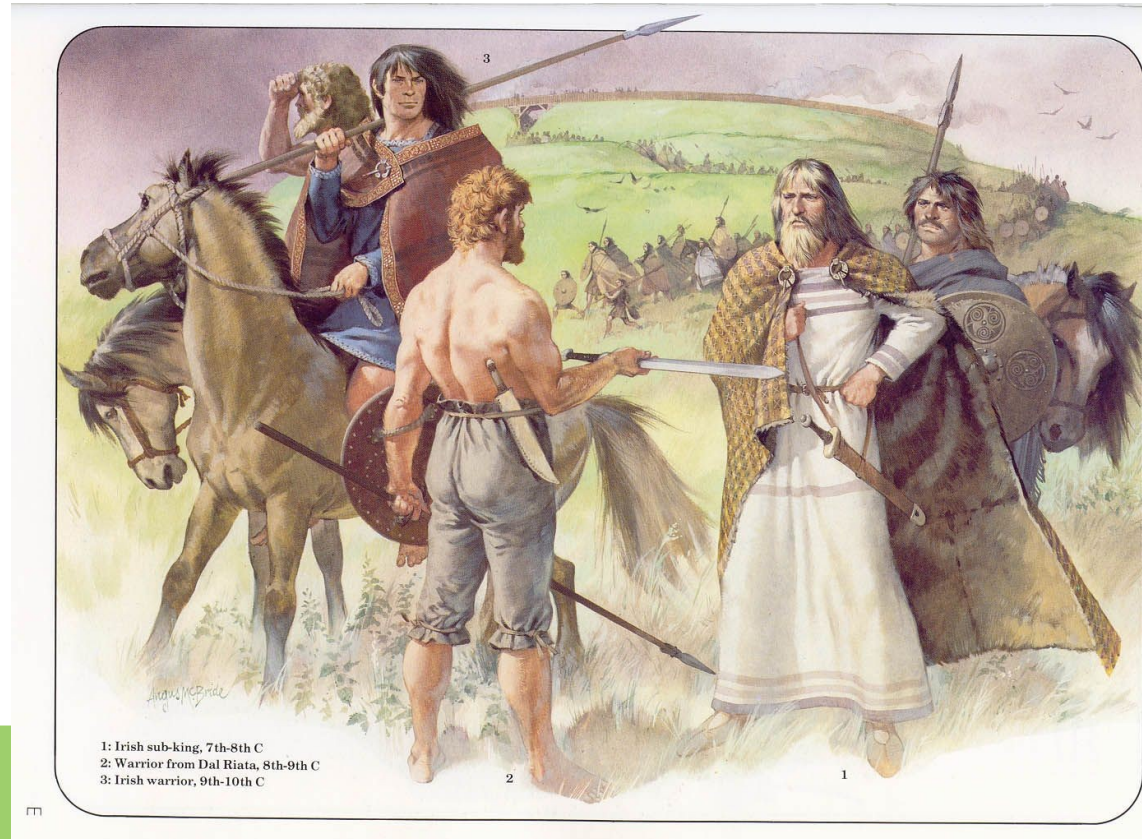
Vikings in Ireland

- Dublin founded in 841
- Part of failed effort to control whole of the Island
- 837 AD – Arrived with 60 longships



Vikings in Ireland

- Established Trading Cities
- Minted first coins in Ireland
- Raided regularly throughout the Island
- Irish Fought back regularly



Vikings in Ireland



Hiberno-Norse Houses



Vikings in Ireland

- Vikings ruled Ireland for about 300 years
- Eventually Brian Boru ended the Viking Rulership
- King from 1002 to 1014
- Irish Population: 500,000 people



Norman Invasion 1169-1177



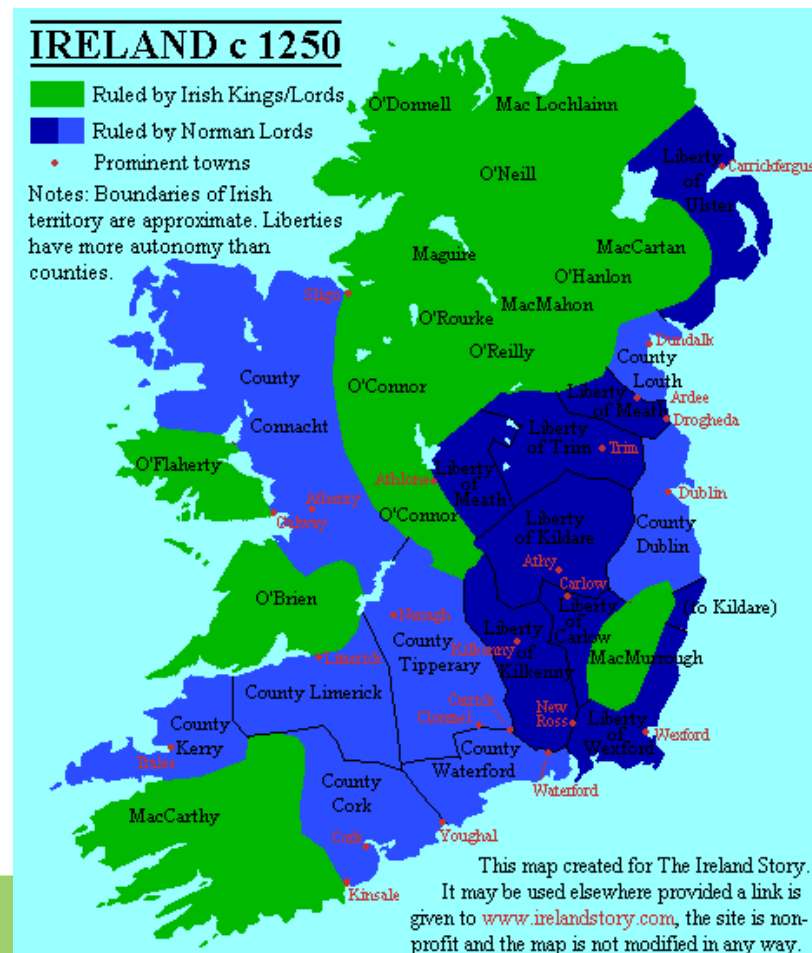
Norman Invasion

- Gaelic Ireland several Kingdoms
- Not a unitary state
- High Kings ruled all (weakly)
- 1169 AD – Normans Invade to support Diarmait Mac Murchada
- Normans also ruled Britain, so this is also known as Anglo-Norman Invasion



Norman Invasion

- 1169 marks beginning of 800 years under British rule
- Normans took over large parts of Ireland
- Normans Intermarried with daughters of Irish nobles



Norman Invasion

- Emplaced Cistercian Monks to control large swaths of Ireland
- Loyal to Continental Europe and Anglo Normans
- Imposed Feudal land tenure, manors and a hierarchical social structure



Gaelic Resurgence and English Control



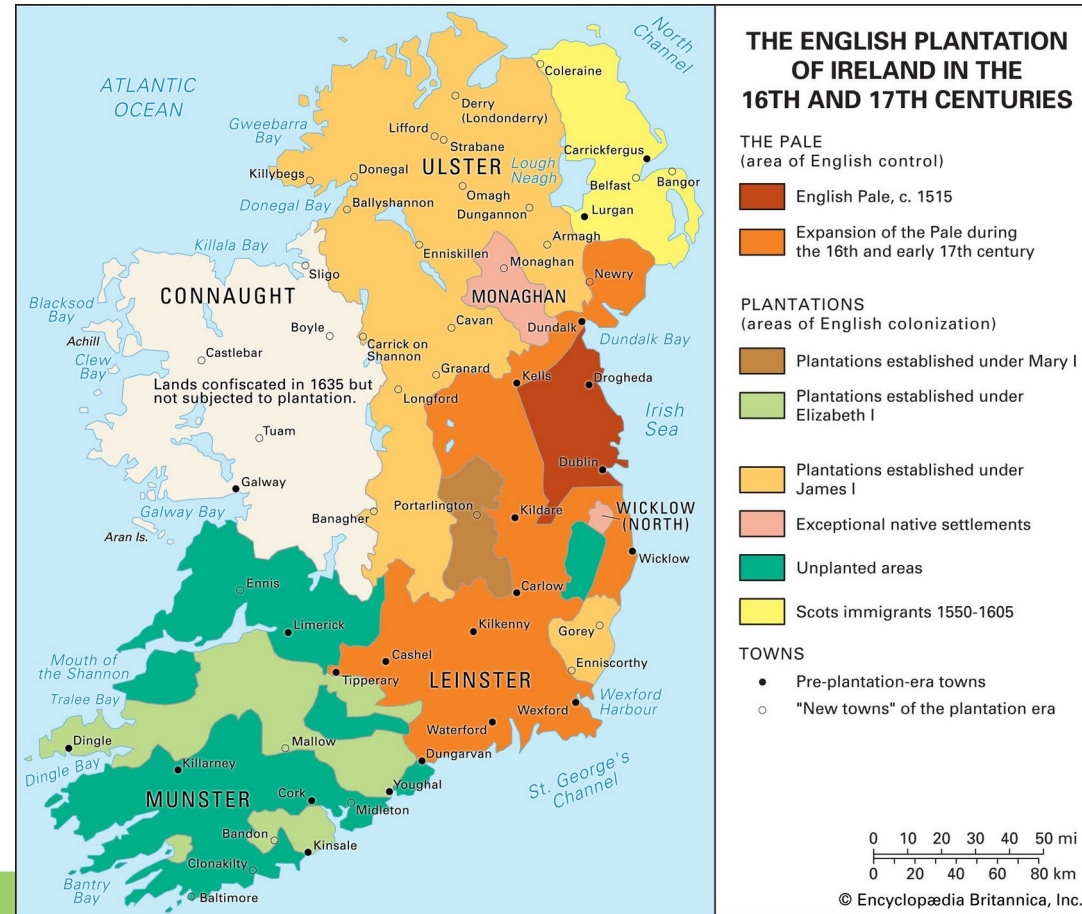
Gaelic Resurgence and English Control

- Native Irish lords regain power in some areas.
- Strong Cultural Resistance from Irish
- Powerful Gaelic dynasties like the O'Neills of Ulster, O'Donnells of Tyrconnell, O'Connors of Connacht, MacCarthys of Desmond, and O'Briens of Thomond reasserted their authority and expanded their territories.



Gaelic Resurgence and English Control

- English King intervenes to maintain English Control over Normans
- English established powerful control in “The Pale.”
- Disenfranchised Irish outside of their areas of control.
- Control not complete



Gaelic Resurgence and English Control

1366 Kilkenny – English Respond

- Decline of English Law and Language outside of the Pale
- The Pale shrinks
- English establish Statute of Kilkenny – Intermarriage between English and Irish outlawed
- Irish Language outlawed
- Beginning of Protestant Settlers



Wars and Colonization



Wars and Colonization

- 1536 Henry VIII wants to reconquer what they've been losing
- Crown had established Plantations
- Confiscated Irish Land for English Crown
- Continued Colonization of Ireland
- Increasing colonization through next century



Wars and Colonization

- 1641 Irish Rebellion
- Demanded
 - end to anti-Catholic discrimination
 - Greater Irish self-governance
 - return of confiscated lands
 - Dismantling of Plantations
- Rebels attacked English control centers
- 1642 Ireland's Catholic Bishop declares it a "Just War"



Wars and Colonization

- Confederation of Kilkenny Against English
- Confederate Ireland arises:
 - Catholic Aristocrats
 - Landed Gentry
 - Military Leaders
- Suffered defeats in 1647



Wars and Colonization

- Cromwell Invades in 1649 and fights them
- 1652 defeats Confederate-Royalist alliance
- Confederates return to guerrilla warfare
- 1689 Williamite War reignites fighting
- 1691 Jacobites Lose (opponents of English King)



Wars and Colonization

Penal Laws

- From 1500's to late 1700's Irish, English, Scots and Welsh prisoners were transported to forced labor in the Caribbean as punishment
- Larger numbers were sent as indentured servants
- Some to American Colonies



Wars and Colonization

- Protestants come to dominate Ireland
- Presbyterians in Northern Ireland
- Anglican Ruling Class
 - Landowners
 - Barristers (judges and lawyers)
 - Politician
 - Clergy
 - Military



18th & 19th Century Rebellion and Famine



Rebellion and Famine

- 1740-1741 Irish Famine
- Extreme Cold and then Dry Weather killed crops
- Killed 13% to 20% of 2.4 Million people
- 300,000 to 480,000 died



Rebellion and Famine

- Irish Rebellion of 1798 insurrection against British Crown
- Failed
- Acts of Union of 1800 unified Ireland and Britain
- Established “United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland”



Rebellion and Famine

- 1845-1849 Great Irish Famine (Irish Potato Famine)
- Potato blight
- Worst effected was South and West
- Strongest Irish speaking regions
- About 1 million killed



Rebellion and Famine

- Changed Ireland's Demographics
- Political and Cultural Landscape
- Produced 2 million Irish refugees



20th Century Independence and Division



Independence and Division

1910's to 1920's Irish Nationalism

- **Irish Home Rule** called for greater sovereignty while remaining part of the British Empire
- **Republicans** wanted full independence from Britain (Sinn Fein and Irish Republican Army)
- 1910 – home rule seemed certain



Independence and Division

- 1916 **Easter Rising** by Irish Republican Brotherhood
- Formed Military, started armed insurrection
- For six days, they occupied several buildings in Dublin including General Post Office
- Thousands of British Troops suppressed this



Independence and Division

Proclamantion of the Republic Signatories

- Seán Mac Diarmada
- Joseph Plunkett
- Éamonn Ceannt
- Thomas MacDonagh
- Patrick Pearse
- James Connolly
- Thomas Clarke



Independence and Division

- **1919- 1921 Dáil Éireann** – Irish Parliament established. Proclaims Irish Republic.
- **1920 - Government of Ireland Act** – British cede control – intended to partition Ireland
- **1920 – 1922 Trouble in Ulster** – Irish Protestants and Catholics bitter fighting



Independence and Division

- 1921 – Ceasefire in War of Independence
- 1922 – **Provision Government in Irish Free State**, Irish Civil War starts
- 1923 – **Free State** wins the Civil War



Independence and Division

- The Troubles, conflict between Protestants (British Unionists) and Independents continue after independence
- 1998 - **Good Friday Agreement** ends “The Troubles”



Hail the Great Irish Fighters
Finally ejected foreign rulers
Finally gained their independence



The End

